

FYI FYI FYI FYI

F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

Issue 05-06

Date: 02/04/05

Permanency Partners Program (P3)

This is to advise staff of a new youth permanency program being field tested in selected spas throughout the Department. Department-wide expansion is being planned for FY 05-06.

Why is there a need:

In Los Angeles County approximately 8,000 youth ages 12-18, are currently residing in placements that are not categorized as "legally permanent", and fall under the category of Planned Permanent Living Arrangements (formerly know as Long Term Foster Care.) In an effort to assist workers in finding legally permanent homes and connections for these older youth, the department has implemented the Permanency Partners Program (P3) pilot.

P3 Pilot:

On October 13, 2004, the Department and the Consortium for Children (a non-profit organization, funded by a state grant) began a public/private partnership piloting P3 in the Lakewood office. To begin, both staff and mediators were trained and fifty youth, age twelve and older in care over twenty-four months were identified to participate. A "Permanency Partner" (trained adoption mediator) is paired with a youth with the goal of establishing one or more adult connections -often times someone the youth knows or knew in the past—with the goal of reunifying the youth with his family or moving the child out of long term foster care and into adoption or legal guardianship.

The process begins with the Permanency Partner and youth meeting, talking and establishing a trusting relationship, moving on to identifying important people in the youth's life, current or in the past. The partner "mines" the case record--reading the case cover to cover to identify any possible adults that might be able to become a resource for this youth. The adults are contacted and the youth is discussed with them. If they are open to a possible relationship of some kind, a meeting is arranged to begin building that relationship. If the adult is amenable, the Permanency Partner, working in conjunction with the social worker, youth and adult, will develop a written agreement to help define the relationship, (reunification, adoption or legal guardianship) and ascertain services that will assist moving the youth into legal permanency.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.co.la.ca.us

Clerical Handbook: <http://198.51.213.151/Policy/Hndbook%20Clerical/Default.htm>

Child Welfare Services Handbook: <http://198.51.213.151/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/default.htm>

FYI's: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/FYI/TOCFYI.HTM>

Results:

During the first three months of P3:

- 29 youth have participated in the pilot
- 44% have potential permanent connections identified
- 1 youth is working to reunite with his birth mother
- 7 youth have potential adoptive placements and 5 more have potential legal guardians identified

Pilot Expansion:

Based on the success in the Lakewood office, the P3 pilot is being expanded to the following offices: Belvedere, Covina, Lancaster and Torrance. In these offices, specially trained retired CSWs and SCSWs will work part-time to assist workers in developing permanency connections for older youth utilizing P3 services. The Wateridge and Pomona offices have also expressed an interest in replicating a P3 program in their offices in the near future.